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The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec, Canada) · Fri, Aug 17, 1979 · Page 42

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YOU BE THE CRITIC

The column where readers have their say

Why does the critic Kiss off the show?

PAUL STANLEY
Part of Kiss circus

In an interview with Kiss' fire-eating, tongue-wagging Gene Simmons (Aug. 4) Juan Rodriguez described the group as "rock music's most blatantly exploitative act." A subsequent review of the Kiss concert at the Forum (Aug. 7) was no less harsh; it was, Rodriguez wrote, "a circus act . . . about as exciting as a fireworks display on a rainy night."

Kiss fans were quick to write in and disagree. Here's a sampling of their letters.

Meanwhile, Rodriguez writes: *Kiss fans angry over the Gazette review can go buy a bunch of Kiss Vitamins, the latest merchandizing gimmick by rock's masters of carny.*

I realize that Juan Rodriguez' position as critic is not an easy one, and I'm sure that after seeing as many performances as he has, it must be difficult to form an objective opinion for each one. I feel that as an expert, he usually knows what he is talking about.

But I think that he should have taken into account that Kiss performs for youngsters not his age group. I also think that if you were to ask parents of Kiss fans what they heard about the concert, I'm sure their answers would conflict quite strongly with his article. What I'm trying to say simply is that if you had seen eight-year old Paul's face when the group did their thing, Aug. 7 he would have formed a very, very different opinion of the show.

I hope I haven't offended Mr. Rodriguez by writing this letter, as this was not my intention. It's just that next time he sees Kiss in concert, he should try to see it through the eight-year old eyes you once had.

Lynda Moore
Montreal

• • •

My friend and I are loyal fans of the rock group Kiss, and your review of their fabulous concert certainly peeved us off! Who does Juan Rodriguez think he is?! No matter who's playing at the Forum, Kiss, Cheap Trick, whoever, he gives them a bad review.

We respect his opinion of course, but why must he always be so negative? If you had taken a survey of all the people at the Kiss concert Monday night, there would certainly be a disagreement between their opinion and Mr. Rodriguez's.

Well no matter what insults your critic throws at Kiss we, as well as all other Kiss fans, will love them forever!!

Joanne McCaughey
Liane Viger
St. Eustache.

• • •

I have put up with Juan Rodriguez for as long as humanly possible. But after the review (Aug. 7) he did on the groups Kiss and New England, I feel it time to speak my piece.

He had no business writing such a depressing review.

Juan Rodriguez presents the image of a sad, bitter man who attempts to wield the power he has as a reviewer like a club. Unfortunately, it is the public who suffers.

Terri Hendler
Montreal

• • •

I take exception to the review Aug. 7. of the Kiss concert by Juan Rodriguez. He said that there was no real emotion put into the show. Can be truly say, after a group puts everything into a show and comes back for an encore dripping with sweat, that there was no emotion.

I think Mr. Rodriguez's idea of emotion is for a band to come out, sit down and play their instruments exactly like they do on the album. Kiss may be the only band left that gives their fans what they want and still leaves them wanting more.

When I pay $10 to see a show, I go to see a show.

The Kiss concert had super theatrics and the sound was a lot better than the last time they were in Montreal.

I thoroughly enjoyed myself as I'm sure most of the sold out Forum crowd did. So Mr. Rodriguez can go see the kind of band who plays their music perfectly (with emotion) if he wants. But for my money I'd rather go see the hottest band in the land.

R. Pfeiffer
Montreal

• • •

Juan Rodriguez's article (Aug. 7) on the Kiss concert was pure hogwash. Obviously, by just reading his report, any Kiss fan can tell he just isn't much of a Kiss fan.

Their costumes were original, their music A-1, and the special effects were extremely satisfying.

How he could say "the concert became dull after awhile" beats me but all those who went, went because of a good reason and got what they wanted plus a great show with it.

If I had to rate his article on 10, I'd give him a 3.

R.B.
St. Bruno, P.Q.

The Gazette welcomes your letters on all aspects of the world of entertainment — and any comments on our critics. Send them to: You Be The Critic, Entertainments Dept., The Gazette, P.O. Box 6036, Montreal H3C 3E2.

Dancer's hands tell 2,000-year-old story

MENAKA THAKKAR
In Odissi pose

BY LINDE HOWE-BECK
of The Gazette

On first impression, she seems a little shy and self-effacing.

But when she begins to speak she dominates, captivates, fascinates. Her eyes dart from side to side and her hands take on lives of their own as they spin her story.

Menaka Thakkar is an Indian dancer who is determined to bring the purest possible form of two classical Indian dances — Bharata Natyam and Odissi — to Canadians as an introduction to the legacy of 2,000 years of dance she inherited in her native Bombay.

Her ability seems to recede and, conversely, to dominate is not only an ability manifested by many educated Indian women but is an integral part of her art.

As an Indian dancer she is also an actress. In both classical dance forms she excels in, Thakkar is required to perform pure dance forms as well as those which require her to tell a story. Often through a form of hand mime known as mudras and exciting facial expressions, her dance calls on her to perform several characters at once, a feat no western dance or theatre form would dream of demanding.

Thakkar, who helped the Montreal Indian community and particularly the Indian pavilion at Man and His World celebrate 32 years of Indian independence yesterday with a special performance, is also performing at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. today at the pavilion.

As a girl from Bombay with a lawyer father sensitive to the arts, Thakkar literally fell into Indian dance. Her sister, nine years her senior, was a serious student of the art and little Menaka adulated and imitated her until at the age of six, the sister decided to teach her.

"I learned from her for six or seven years. It was an advantage or a disadvantage, perhaps. But finally my father, who believed each dancer must be an individual realized my personality was not coming out. I was imitating my sister. So I switched teachers."

Today, Thakkar teaches her art at York University in Toronto where she is on the summer faculty and where she conducts credit courses in the winter.

She is also a performing artist and in the winter months she tours Canada, creates her own choreographies for both adults and children and studies in India.

At the urging of one of her three brothers who decided the family needed an international experience, she immigrated to Canada six years ago with her mother and four other brothers and sisters.

"In India, people don't have must opportunity to see beyond themselves. We rarely see performances from another part of the world — only once or twice a year," Thakkar explains.

"I came to visit and brought my music and costumes. I gave a performance at the University of Toronto and got six contracts that first night."

She was overwhelmed. Although she had not officially immigrated, she stayed on longer and longer finding herself pressured to remain by the potential her art had in Canada.

"It's very strange. After coming here I understand my own dance form better. In India I took so many things for granted — they were part of our culture. But here my students question things that wouldn't be questioned in India. They questioned things like — well, it's like in ballet if someone asked why dancers stand on their toes. They asked simple things but I had to think and find scientific reasons for the actions."

Her students asked why Indian dances were performed in a wide and open stance on flat feet with knees bent almost in a squatting position.

Thakkar decided it was because both her dances, although they evolved from temple dances, were related to the ground instead of the air. The body needs to be relaxed and open, she says, so that the dancer can perform joyfully and comfortably.

"After seeing ballet I could understand my art more and I became more responsible to it. I felt I must make it so clear here that it would be logical to Canadians."

WHAT'S ON WEEKEND

CLUBS

Gringos, 1471 Crescent St., downstairs. **Sun.:** Daphne Lindmar, starting at 9 p.m. 288-2651.

Frier's Pub, 1445 Crescent St. **Tonight through Sun.:** Short Notice, 9:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. 849-9086.

The Maples, 121 Lakeshore Rd. in Pointe Claire. **Tonight through Sun.:** Big City Band. 694-2479.

Le Pretzel Enchaine, 2112 Clark St. **Tonight through Sun.:** Robert Fripp. Extra show Sun. 5 p.m.. Tickets, $6.50. 286-9075.

The Mustache, 1445 Closse St. **Tonight through Sun.:** White Frost. 931-2575.

Stitches, 1470 Crescent St. **Sun.:** The Clones, 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Admission $3. For auditions, phone 842-3713.

L'Imprevu, 446 Place Jacques Cartier in Old Montreal. **Tonight through Sun.:** Paul Baker. 878-9397

Yakkity-Yak, 1240 Drummond St. **Tonight through Sun.:** Flatbush. 866-6492.

Lancer Pub, 1240 Drummond St. **Tonight through Sun.:** Carl Peterson, Andy Vine and Duke Walker. First set at 9 p.m. Free admission. 866-6492.

Yellow Door, 3625 Alymer St. **Tonight and tomorrow:** The Mountain City Four. Doors open at 8 p.m. 392-4947.

St. James Pub, 1197 University St. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Richard Duffy. 861-4662.

The Hunter's Horn, 1214 Peel St. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Clahanes. Upstairs in The Parlour, Peter Suttie. 861-8022.

L'Air du Temps, 191 St. Paul St. in Old Montreal. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Denis Lapage. **Sun.:** Richard Ring Quartet. Admission: $2. 842-2003.

Salle Bonaventure, Queen Elizabeth Hotel. City Lights Revue featuring Roxanna Ward. Shows at 9:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m., tonight; 9:30 p.m. and midnight, tomorrow. 861-3511.

Cock 'n Bull Pub, 1944 St. Catherine St. W. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Bowser and Blue. **Sun.:** Al Peter's Dixieland Band. 933-4556.

THEATRE
OPENINGS

Cold Storage at the Saidye Bronfman Centre, 5170 Cote St. Catherine Rd. Play by Ronald Ribman, directed by Sean Mulcahy. Opening tomorrow night at 8:30 p.m.; Sun., 7:30 p.m. and continuing until Sept. 16. Tickets available at the box office. 739-7944.

CONTINUING

Beatlemania the Broadway musical that recreates the *Fab Four*, at Theatre St. Denis, 1594 St. Denis St. Tonight and tomorrow, 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.; Sun., 8:30 p.m. Tickets: weekdays, $8.50 to $12.50; weekends, $10 to $15, on sale at the theatre box office and all Simpsons stores. 849-4211.

Le Poudriere, Ile Ste. Helene. Alan Ayckbourn's *Absent Friends*, continues until Sept. 29. Cast includes Joyce Campion, Wendy Dawson, Sheena Larkin, Desmond Ellis, Dustin Wain and Harry Hill. Showtimes: Tonight, 8:30 p.m.; tomorrow, 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. 526-0821.

Grand Theatre de Quebec, 269 Saint-Cyrille St. E. Jacques Letourneau and Colette Boky star in Franz Lehar's *Le Pays du Sourire*, tonight.

Theatre d'ete le St. Laurent, 2405 Ile Charron, Longueuil, presents *Double Jeu*, comedy-suspense written by Robert Thomas and staged by Jean Dumas. Cast includes Rejean Lefrancois, Janine Mignolet, Yvan Ducharme, Gabrielle Mathieu and Bertrand Gagnon. Tonight, 8:30 p.m.; tomorrow, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m., continuing until Sept. 1. Reservations: 651-5250.

OUT OF TOWN

Festival Lennoxville, Bishop's University, Lennoxville. **Tonight:** *Westmount*, 8:30 p.m.; **tomorrow:** *The Murder of Auguste Dupin*, 2 p.m. and *Eight to the Bar*, 8:30 p.m.; **Sun.:** *Clouds of Glory*, 2 p.m. and *Westmount*, 7 p.m. Accomodation available on campus. (800) 567-6153, toll-free from Montreal; or (819) 563-4966 in Lennoxville.

Piggery Theatre, North Hatley. William Luce's *The Belle of Amherst*, featuring Sharon Corder as Emily Dickinson. Tonight, 8:30 p.m.; tomorrow, 6 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. (819) 842-2191.

Prince of Wales Theatre, near Morrisburg, Ont., presents the musical drama *A Day to Remember*, tonight, 8 p.m.; tomorrow and Sun., 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., until Sept. 2. Tickets, $6, children, $3, on sale at the all TRS outlets or the Theatre's box office. 288-3651.

Theatre du Manoir des Pins, Ste. Lucie de Doncaster, presents *Est partie comme un p'tit poulet*. Fri. through Sun., 8:30 p.m., until Sept. 2. Cast includes Chantel Beaupre, Jean-Raymond Chales and Francois Trottier; music by Luc Lafrance, adapted by Yves Bastien. Produced by Corridor. Tickets, $5; senior citizens, $4.25. (819) 326-0002.

L'Escale, St. Marc-sur-Richelieu, presents Elizabeth Bourget's *Le bonheur d'Henri*, until Sept. 1. Directed by Gilbert Lepage. Tonight, 9 p.m.; tomorrow, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. 584-2226.

Theatre d'Ete Le Dauphin, 600 St. Joseph Blvd. in Drummondville, presents *L'amour vous connaissez*, a translation of Bill Manhoff's comedy, with Claudine Chantel and Guy Godin. Tonight, 8:30 p.m.; tomorrow, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m., until Sept. 1. Reservations: 478-4145.

Theatre St. Sauveur presents *J'me sens drole*, a musical comedy by Gilles Richer with Michel Forget, France Costel, Hans Masson and Marc Legault. Tonight, 8:30 p.m., tomorrow, 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. and Sun. 7:30 p.m., until Sept. 3. 22 Claude St. in St. Sauveur, (Exit 60, Laurentian Autoroute). 227-3747.

Theatre du Manoir St. Castin, Lac Beauport, Que. *Trois actrices, un coq*, with Catherine Begin and Maryse Pelletier. Written by Clemence DesRochers. Tonight, 8:30 p.m.; tomorrow, 7 p.m., 10:30 p.m., continues until Sept. 2.

Theatre Beaumont-St. Michel, St. Michel-de-Bellechasse. *Allo, Allo*, with Roger Lebel. Tonight, 8:30 p.m.; tomorrow, 7:30 p.m., 10 p.m., continuing until Sept. 1.

Theatre du Manoir Richelieu, Pointe-au-Pic, Charlvoix. *Manon Lastcall* and *Jouelez-moi d'amour*, tonight through Sun., 9:30 p.m., until Sept. 2.

FRIDAY

MUSIC

Orford Festival'79 — J. M. C. Orford Art Centre (Exit 118 off the Eastern Townships Autoroute). Chuck Israels and his jazz band from New York.

KIDS

Puppet Show — *Il etait une fois en Neuve-France*, a puppet show created by Theatre de l'Avant-Pays will presented in French at the auditorium of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free admission.

ETCETERA

Dancing — An evening of disco and rock 'n roll dancing with Sheldon Kagan, outside Place Ville Marie from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

REPERTORY

Cinema V (489-5559) Mean Streets, 7; Love at First Bite, 7:15; The Omen, 9:15; Richard Pryor Live In Concert, 9:45; The Rocky Horror Picture Show, midnight.

Conservatoire d'Art cinematographique (879-4349) Il Grido, 7; The Emigrants, 9.

Man and His World (872-6222) Exploding Cities (Eng.) 1:15, (Fr.) 12:10; Tamusi et Markosi (Eng.) 11:35, 2:30, 6:40, 7:50, (Fr.) 11, 1:55, 7:15; Children of the Revolution (Eng.) 3:40, (Fr.) 3:05, 5:25.

Ouimetoscope (525-8600) Jamais Je ne t'ai promis un jardin de roses, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30; Capricorne Un, 7, 9:15, 11:30.

Outremont (277-4145) Les Moissons du Ciel, 8; Mort sur le Nil, 10.

Seville (932-1139) A Little Romance, 6:30; The Deer Hunter, 8:45; A Clockwork Orange, midnight.

L'Imprevu (878-9397) Un Film d'Amour et d'Anarchie, 6:30.

SATURDAY

ETCETERA

Westminster Festival and Jam — Westminster Park will be holding a skateboard demonstration and live folk music from noon to 6:30 p.m.; live rock entertainment at 6:30 p.m. Westminister Park is located in Dollard-des-Ormeaux. 648-1010, ext. 46.

Antique Car Auction 10:30 p.m. at Place Bonaventure; also children can auction for minibikes. For more information phone, Richard Logie at 642-8009.

Man and His World presents a water-skiing demonstration in La Ronde at Lake Dauphin, 7 p.m.

Nine professional craftspeople of the Eastern Townships, are having their annual exhibition at The Brome Historical Society in Knowlton, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pottery, ceramics, weaving, batik, silk painting and metal sculpture will be shown. 243-6467.

REPERTORY

Cinema V (489-5559) Love at First Bite, 7; The Buddy Holly Story, 7:15; 1900, 9:15; The Forbidden Planet, midnight.

Conservatoire d'Art cinematographique (879-4349) L'Aventura, 7; The New Land, 9:15.

L'Imprevu (878-9397) Un Film d'Amour et d'Anarchie, 6:30.

Man and His World (872-6222) Water the Hazardous Necessarity (Eng.) 1:15, (Fr.) 12; Children of the Island (Eng.) 11:35, 2:30, 6:40, 7:50, (Fr.) 11, 1:55, 7:15; Children of the Street (Eng.) 3:40 (Fr.) 3:05, 5:25.

Ouimetoscope (525-8600) Harold and Maude, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30; Le Pion, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11.

Outremont (277-4145) Mort sur le Nil, 7, 10.

Seville (932-1139) A Little Romance, 6:30; The Deer Hunter, 8:45; Dawn of the Dead, midnight.

SUNDAY

MUSIC

The Little Singers of Mount Royal perform *Missa Le bien que j'ay* by George Goudimel and *Pasim 23*, at 11 a.m., St. Joseph's Oratory, 3800 Queen Mary Rd. Also, organist, Raymond Daveluy at 3:30 p.m. 733-8211.

OUT OF TOWN

Vermont Recital Associates — presents a Chamber Music program. Four Winds Gallery, Ferrisburg, Vermont. (802) 862-6344.

KIDS

Parc Safari, Hemmingford, invites children to come and see the puppet show *The Old Tree of Parc Safari*, two performances, 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. 454-3668.

ETCETERA

Music, Comedy and Dancing on Victoria Ave., between Linton and Cote St. Catherine Rd. from noon to 6 p.m. The community festival will include musicians such as Bowser and Blue, Z. W. Band,-Fleur de Son and others; a comedy revue by Stitches; jazz ballet by Donna and Lois; and a special visit by the cast of *Beatlemania* presently on stage at St. Denis Theatre.

The Council of Indian Organization in Montreal is sponsoring an Indian bazaar, from 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.; and a cultural program of games, ethnic food and a fashion show at 6:30 p.m. Vanier College, 821 St. Croix. Free admission. 483-1898.

REPERTORY

Cinema V (489-5559) Love at First Bite, 7; The Buddy Holly Story, 7:15; The Omen, 9:15; Last Tango in Paris, 9:45.

Conservatoire d'Art cinematographique (879-4349) Il Deserto Rosso, 7; Ombres en Plein Jour, 9.

L'Imprevu (878-9397) Un Film d'Amour et d'Anarchie, 6:30.

Man and His World (872-6222) Development Without Tears, (Eng.) 1:15, (Fr.) 12:10; The Delivery Children, (Eng.) 11:35, 2:30, 6:40, 7:50, (Fr.) 11, 1:55, 7:15; Children of Peloponese (Eng.) 3:40, (Fr.) 3:05, 5:25.

Ouimetoscope (525-8600) Harold et Maude, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30; L'Homme Presse, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9.

Outremont (277-4145) La Grande Cuisine, 7; Le Cavaleur, 9:30.

Seville (932-1139) A Little Romance, 6:30; The Deer Hunter, 8:45; Dawn of the Dead, midnight.

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